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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ESCAP Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP)
Regional Network for Small Hydropower (RN-SHP)

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
First Meeting

Hangzhou, China, 11 - 13 December 1984

Technical Advisory Group
Membership and Meetings*

(Agenda item 8)

prepared by

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Technical Advisory Group: Membership and Meetings

The financial resources currently allocated for TAG meetings are:

1984 - US$ 7,500
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It is apparent from the planning and cost estimates for the First TAG Meeting that these allocations are not commensurate with the objective of strong participation at the TAG meetings. With the current membership of the RN-SHP the estimated cost for the first meeting is in excess of US$ 20,000. As the membership of the RN-SHP expands, the cost of future meetings composed of full membership will increase accordingly.

The options available are:

(a) to obtain additional sources of funding for TAG meetings
(b) to hold TAG meetings bi- or tri-annually
(c) to have TAG meetings with only selected country participation.

The advantages of option (a) are that all countries concerned are able to fully participate in the work of the TAG and through it have a closer involvement with the activities of the RN-SHP. The difficulty would be finding the additional financial resources of approx. US$ 15,000 a year. Secondly, consideration must be given to the value of utilizing such additional funding to the substantive activities of the RN-SHP programme itself - training, R&D, etc.

Option (b) has the major disadvantage of long intervals between meetings, which would tend to mean that participants would "lose touch" with the work of the RN-SHP and the opinions of other participants. In addition, the Interim Co-ordinator of the RN-SHP, as well as the Senior Co-ordinator of the REDP, would be deprived of receiving regular guidance, advice and support from the TAG, which is in fact the original mandate given to the TAG.

The difficulty with option (c) would be on the selection of countries to participate in the TAG meetings. Secondly, with the current budget allocation we would be limited to around 3-4 participants.

The TAG participants may wish to consider a combination of all 3 options, that is try to obtain some additional funding to hold full TAG meetings bi-annually, with a smaller meeting held in alternate years. This meeting would have a revolving membership with a core-membership of say 3-4 countries for a term of 4 years to ensure continuity, and another 3-4 countries for a term of 2 years, selected from among other member countries.